

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249376

FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 4879 SENT SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC REP  
GUAM/TTPI DATED OCT 8.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4879

DEPT PASS TO INTERIOR FOR DOTA AND OMSN

CINCPACREP FOR STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, TQ

SUBJ: TTPI: US VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE MARIANAS

PLEBISCITE

REF: CINCPAC'S 282202Z OCT 74

SUMMARY: WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY PLEBISCITE IN MARIANAS  
UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL IN JUNE 1975 BECAUSE OF DANGERS INHERENT IN TRYING  
TO SECURE UN APPROVAL BEFORE THEN OF VISITING MISSION TO  
OBSERVE PLEBISCITE.

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1. WE NOTE FROM REFTTEL THAT, AS RESULT OF POSSI-

BILITY OF CONCLUSION OF MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IN DECEMBER 1974, CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO SCHEDULING PLEBISCITE ON COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT FOR EARLY 1975. MOREOVER, AS THE DEPT. WILL RECALL, USG COMMITTED ITSELF TO UN ROLE IN AMBASSADOR WHITE'S STATEMENT TO TC ON JUNE 5, 1974 THAT THERE WOULD BE UN PARTICIPATION IN EITHER PLEBISCITE OR REFERENDUM IN THE MARIANAS. INDEED EVENTUAL SC APPROVAL OF SEPARATE STATUS FOR MARIANAS IS PREDICATED ON CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS WILL OF PEOPLE OF MARIANAS. THIS REQUIRES UN OBSERVATION.

2. DISPATCH OF VISITING MISSIONS REQUIRES APPROVAL OF TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WHICH WILL HOLD ITS NEXT REGULAR SESSION IN LATE MAY 1975. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ALREADY SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER AT MAY SESSION PERIODIC VISITING MISSION TO ENTIRE TTPI, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LONG ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF SENDING MISSIONS TO MICRONESIA EVERY THREE YEARS. (FYI: LAST MISSION VISITED TTPI FEBRUARY-MARCH 1973).

3. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PERSUADE OTHER TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS TO HOLD SPECIAL ONE-DAY TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL SESSION EARLY IN 1975 TO CONSIDER ONLY QUESTION OF MISSION TO OBSERVE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE BUT WE CAN EXPECT FIRM SOVIET OPPOSITION TO MISSION AND EXTREME RELUCTANCE OF UK, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUCH MISSION.

4. AUSTRALIA, FRANCE AND UK HAVE STRONG REASONS FOR THEIR RELUCTANCE. IN FIRST PLACE, THEY ALL TOLD US DURING JUNE 1974 TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL SESSION THAT WHILE THEY ACCEPTED INEVITABILITY OF SEPARATE STATUS FOR MARIANAS UPON CONCLUSION OF TRUSTEESHIP, THEY FEAR SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD NOT APPROVE TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT UNLESS A) ALL MICRONESIANS, INCLUDING PEOPLE OF MARIANAS, HAVE ESSENTIALLY SAME ALTERNATIVES TO CHOOSE FROM IN EVENTUAL PLEBISCITES, AND B) PLEBISCITES FOR MARIANAS AND FOR REST OF MICRONESIA HELD AS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AS POSSIBLE AND AFTER CONCLUSION OF BOTH STATUS AGREEMENTS.

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5. OUR FRIENDS ON TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WOULD ALSO BE GREATLY EMBARRASSED BY SEPARATE SESSION OF COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTING FACT THAT THEY ASSENTING TO "SEPARATISM" IN TTPI WHILE OPPOSING IT IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION. IN PARTICULAR, AUSTRALIANS ARE WORRIED THAT SEPARATIST TENDENCIES IN PAPUA MAY THREATEN UNITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND FRENCH CURRENTLY

DISCOURAGING DEMANDS FOR SEPARATE STATUS AMONG SOME OF THE COMORO ISLANDS.

6. EVEN IF WE SUCCEED IN PRESSURING OUR THREE FRIENDS ON TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO APPROVE OF SPECIAL VISITING MISSION, WE WOULD THEN HAVE TO CONTENT WITH REPORT MISSION WOULD WRITE. MISSION WOULD OF NECESSITY SPEND MOST OF ITS TIME ON SAIPAN WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPOSURE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ALREADY ON RECORD AS OPPOSING SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MARIANAS, AND WOULD INEVITABLY CENTER ON THIS IN ITS REPORT. MISSION VISITING REST OF TTPI AS WELL AS MARIANAS WOULD BE ABLE TO PLACE THESE COM ATTITUDES IN BROADER PEPPECTIVE.

7. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS, PRESSURE WILL BUILD UP IN DISTRICT FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP AND THAT PLEBISCITE OR REFERENDUM NECESSARY BEFORE SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION INSTALLED. WE ALSO FULLY ENDORSE VIEW THAT UN VISITING MISSION SHOULD OBSERVE THIS PLEBISCITE. WE BELIEVE WE COULD AVOID CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, BY OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VISITING MISSION TO TTPI AND QUIETLY INCLUDING IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE OBSERVATION OF POSSIBLE PLEBISCITES IN TTPI, WITHOUT NECESSARILY SPEIFYING MARIANAS. TIMING OF SUCH VISITING MISSION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS AMONG, US, UN SECRETARIAT AND MEMBERS OF MISSION (PROBABLY UK, FRANCE AND SOVIET UNION) AFTER CONCLUSION OF TC SESSION. IT IS CONCEIVABLE, THEREFORE, THAT MISSION COULD TRAVEL TO TTPI AS EARLY AS JULY 1975. WE, THEREFORE, ALSO RECOMMEND THAT PLEBISCITE FOR MARIANAS BE DELAYED UNTIL AT LEAST THAT

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